

CITY OF LINCOLN

Request for: ☒ Ordinance
☐ Resolution

(Do Not Write in this Space)

Bill Control No. 26-182 Date: 9/29/06

Docketing Date 10/9; PH: 10-16-06

(To Be Entered by City Clerk)

DATE
September 20, 2006

REQUEST MADE BY Bruce D. Dart,
Ph.D. Health Director

DEPARTMENT
Health

DESIRED DOCKET DATE: October 9, 2006 IF EMERGENCY, GIVE REASON (See Art. 6, Sec. 2 of Charter)

Emergency Measure Required:

☐ Yes ☒ No

REASONS OR JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION

LMC 8.14 Early Childhood Programs was adopted in 1984. However, until 2004 Lincoln's ability to regulate child care was restricted by State statute. In 2004, the City of Lincoln supported LB 1005, which changed statute to allow local jurisdictions to adopt child care regulations as long as they were at least as stringent as the State's. Lincoln can now address certain issues at the local level, such as: requiring training in disease and injury prevention; collecting fees to partially offset the costs of services; and controlling disease outbreaks in child care before they become community wide-outbreaks. Fees are proposed to cover a portion of the costs of conducting plan review, conducting inspections, providing consultation, and investigating disease outbreaks. Fees for plan review for new facilities will be \$75 and annual fees for child care programs will range from \$75 to \$150 per facility depending on type and size of program. As part of the budget process, the Health Department looked at all programs to identify fees that could reduce reliance on general funds, and fees to offset costs for such work is reasonable.

The Health Department worked with a focus group of child care center directors to update the ordinance and regulations. Significant changes to the ordinance include:

- requiring training in injury prevention, disease prevention and safe food handling;
- creating permit fees;
- adopting new operational regulations; and
- clarifying enforcement provisions to assure due process.

In addition, we held two public meetings to gather input on the ordinance and took the ordinance to the Board of Health for their consideration. Feedback from those that would be regulated was favorable overall, although there was some concern about the amount of the fees. Fees were lowered based on this feedback, and most found the fees as contained in the proposal now before the City Council to be reasonable. The Board of Health passed the proposal unanimously.

Over 140 child care centers in Lincoln provide care for about 12,000 infants and young children. Young children are particularly vulnerable and are more susceptible to injury and disease. The grouping of children in child care settings increases the risk of rapid spread of many communicable diseases. Unless identified and controlled early, such outbreaks in child care centers can quickly spread disease into the community, resulting in high medical costs, missed work by parents, and siblings missing school due to illness. Conducting regular sanitation inspections, and providing consultation and training in disease prevention are key aspect of preventing such disease outbreaks in Lincoln.

REQUESTOR

☒ DOES ☐ DOES NOT

WISH TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THIS
ORDINANCE PRIOR TO ITS INTRODUCTION

Bruce Dart
DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE

9/20/06
DATE

TO BE USED BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT

BUDGET
REVIEW

DATE:

ACCOUNT NUMBER
AND APPROPRIATE
BALANCES

DATE:

FUND AVAILABILITY
APPROVED

DATE:

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SIGNATURE

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